



### RECENT TRIPS

*The Bender Ranch*—This is a new spot and a record crowd turned out—25 cars and more than 50 people—more people than birds.

The ranch has a lovely setting among the hills of Sonoma County. The house is surrounded by lawns, gardens, and oak trees, which are usually full of birds but this day they disappointed us.

The group took a pleasant two mile trail through the woods to a second ranch house and managed to collect 39 birds but they had to be tracked down. There were four kinds of woodpeckers—Hairy, Downy, Acorn and Nuttall's. Hermit Thrush, Titmouse, Brown Creeper, Solitary and Hutton's Vireo, Western and Mountain Bluebird were seen and, high on a ridge a Peregrine Falcon.—*Leader & Historian*, Patricia Triggs

*Pinnacle National Monument*—The trip was enjoyed on October 14 & 15 by the three co-leaders and by the plentiful deer, raccoons, and dwarf size Hermit Thrushes which overran camp.

At sundown, about 100 White-throated Swifts swarmed the air above the caves but were barely in evidence during the rest of the day.

The 55 species of birds seen included Pygmy, Saw-whet and Screech Owls, Rough-legged and Pigeon Hawk, Canyon and Rock Wren, and two Golden Eagles. On the way home, the Zyante woods furnished a Clark's Nutcracker.

—Hilda and Carlyle Sather and Oliver Allen, *Co-leaders and Historians*  
*Golden Gate Park*—The group met at 9 A. M., on September 19, in foggy weather, for a walk around North and Middle Lakes and through the Fuchsia Gardens. A good number of migrants were seen and several winter birds had arrived. Several Pygmy Nuthatches, new birds for the park, were studied while they were feeding with White-breasted and Red-breasted Nuthatches. About 45 species were counted by nine persons.

Florence Plymell, *Leader & Historian*  
*Bay Farm Island*—September 23. Previous scouting showed that most of the old loafing grounds on Frontage Road had been filled and drained, therefore, it was not included in the trip. There was, however, some excellent birding at Lincoln Park. An unusual sight for this spot was an Acorn Woodpecker. Also, a Townsend Warbler was seen here.

The foot of High Street, Maitland Drive, and Mecartncy Drive were visited. At the old destroyer area lunches were eaten as birders waited

for the tide to recede. Here two Clapper Rails appeared in the grass in the lagoon. A Pomarine Jaeger showed how he takes his food as he harried some terns. At the west end of Mecartney Drive, A Laurence Curl and others lucky enough to be close to him saw an Eastern Kingbird. The big concentration of shore birds was missing because of the plus tides. However, most of the species to be expected were seen in smaller numbers. 55 species were seen in all.—Harold G. Peterson, *Leader & Historian*

*Wright's Lake*—Approximately 20 persons turned out for this trip on July 8 & 9. They were joined by about 20 persons from the Contra Costa County Audubon Society. Several short hikes were taken to Dark Lake, Twin Lakes and Beuty Lake.

Some of the species most interesting to Bay Area birders were Spotted Sandpipers, apparently nesting in the swampy area north of Wright's Lake, Pileated Woodpecker, Williamson's Sapsucker, White-headed Woodpecker, Mountain Chickadee, Clark's Nutcracker, Western Tanager, Cassin's Finch, Pine Grosbeak, and Green-tailed Towhee. Both Ruby and Golden-crowned Kinglets entertained with their songs, bird songs rarely heard in the bay area.

FIELD NOTES—A Northern Water Thrush was seen in Richmond, September 30 The bird "teetered" around on our yard for at least five minutes and during this time we could carefully observe and study it.—Mr. and Mrs. Richard J. Leuba.

On October 9, I saw a Tropical Kingbird in Princeton. Last year, I saw one at Woods Lagoon, Santa Cruz, on October 16, six days before the Tomales Bay Trip on which we saw three—*Oliver I. Allen*

#### IN MEMORIAM

In memory of  
Mrs. J. Zale Richardson

Mrs. Alice Leonard

Gifts from  
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Scott  
Dr. & Mrs. Albert Boles  
Mae Rosecrans  
Erline Hevel

*Dr. Albert Boles, Sanctuary & Memorial Fund Chairman*

#### NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members to our Society: from Berkeley, Miss Evelyn Mitchell, Miss Lisa T. Painter; from Millbrae, Mrs. Harold Miller; from Oakland, Mr. & Mrs. Frank Dix; from San Francisco, Dr. M. Robert Harris, Miss Enid Henley.—Roberta J. Long, *Membership Chmn.*

#### NOVEMBER MEETING

The Golden Gate Audubon Society will hold its 523rd meeting on Thursday, November 9, 1961, at the First Unitarian Church, Geary and Franklin Streets in San Francisco, at 7:30 P. M.

Mr. Leland L. Stallcup, long active in the Society, has prepared an illustrated lecture, *Autumn Color in the Cool Southwest*. At this time all conservation groups are focusing attention upon this area.

A no-host dinner will precede the meeting. It will be at six o'clock, at Tommy's Joynt, at the corner of Van Ness and Franklin Streets.

Mark your calendar now for November 9th.

—Myra J. Browne, *Program Chairman*



### EDUCATION PROGRAM EXPANDED

The Board of Governors of the Golden Gate Audubon Society announces with pleasure Mrs. Janet Nickelsburg's acceptance of the appointment to chairman of the Education Committee. Meeting with the Board at the October meeting, Mr. William Goodall, Pacific Coast Representative of the National Audubon Society, presented plans for an expanded education program for the coming year. As a first step, Mrs. Nickelsburg will offer training in leadership for field trips, to potential leaders. In addition, a nature appreciation program for children and grandchildren of Golden Gate Audubon Society members is planned with a special opportunity for teenagers to become junior leaders in this program. Mrs. Nickelsburg will work closely with Paul Covell, Conservation Chairman, in order to further the conservation interests of the Society.

**CONTRIBUTION APPRECIATED**—The National Audubon Society recently acknowledged with gratitude a contribution of two hundred dollars made by the Golden Gate Audubon Society, to the Condor Protection Fund for 1961-1962. The national society meets the expense of maintaining a warden at the sanctuary, as well as, the cost of signs posting the area.

### FIELD TRIPS FOR NOVEMBER

On Saturday and Sunday, November 4-5, to Willows and Gridley Refuges. Please, check the notice in the October Gull for information about routes, accommodations, and meeting places. Be sure to make reservations before going up if you wish to stay overnight. Leader, Harry Adamson, AT 3-2164

On Saturday, November 11, to Orinda and San Pablo Reservoirs. Large numbers of ducks, geese, and shorebirds winter here. The oak and shrub covered slopes are good habitat for many land birds. *No Trespassing* signs keep this area in its wild state. Upper Bear Creek and Briones Valley may be visited for warblers. This is one chance to see Hooded Merganser on Cascade Lake and Wood Duck on San Pablo Dam Reservoir. Meet at 9 A. M. in front of the Orinda Theatre near Orinda Crossroads. Leader, A. Laurence Curl, LA 6-7004.

On Tuesday, November 14, to Lake Merritt. This lake is a good place to observe many species of water birds at close range. Some unusual birds may also be seen in the pens and on display in the dome. A visit to the Rotary Natural Science Center is interesting and educational. This is a nationally known wildlife center. Meet at the Rotary Natural Science Center in Lakeside Park near the feeding area, at 9:30 A. M. Leader, Lee Stalleup, LO 9-3185.

On Saturday, November 25, to Mt. Tamalpais. This will be a three mile hiking trip. Habitat consists of oak, chaparral, open meadows, lake and bay, and redwood trees. The route is planned to cover Mountain Theatre, Rock Springs, Laurel Dell and Alpine Lake. This is a good habitat for many wintering species, as well as, permanent resident birds. Meet at Pan Toll parking area, at 9 A. M. Take Route 101 past Marin City and turn off onto Route 1 and follow signs to Mt. Tamalpais State Park. Bring binoculars, telescope, lunch and interested friends. Leader, Patricia Triggs, DE 3-5592.

On Saturday, December 2, to Conn Lake in Napa County. Since 1951

this area has been on our list of winter trips. Each year it has resulted in some unusual birding experience. About 400 Wood Ducks were seen in 1957. Last year about 100 Wood Ducks flew in and landed on the water within good binocular range. Good views of an Arctic Loon were had at the dam. Meet at the stone bridge about one mile northeast of Napa, at 9 A. M. Bring binoculars, telescope, a lunch and interested friends. Leader, Harold G. Peterson, LO 8-7534.

On Sunday, December 3, the Conn Lake trip will be repeated. This is being done to split the group for better birding. Leader, John Ralph, LA 5-0373.

**FIELD TRIPS COMMITTEE MEETING**

Your ideas and suggestions have helped to give the Society a fine field trips program. We need more of them. On Thursday, November 16, 7:30 P. M., there will be a meeting of the committee at the library in the Rotary Science Center, Lakeside Park, Oakland, in order to set up a good field trips program for 1962. All members are invited to attend. If you cannot come, please, send in suggestions by mail or telephone.

—HAROLD G. PETERSON, *Field Trips Chairman*

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